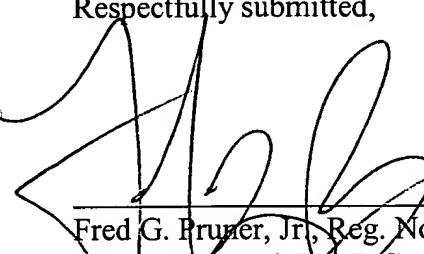


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted concurrently with a Request For Continued Examination. New claims 43-47 have been added and are patentable over the cited art. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0294US).

Date: August 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


Fred G. Pruner, Jr., Reg. No. 40,779
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77024
(713) 468-8880 [Phone]
(713) 468-8883 [Fax]